

Challenges to healthcare access for migrants in transit: a scoping review

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Migrants in transit face numerous health risks and challenges, many of which are exacerbated by barriers to accessing healthcare. Given the growing global migration crisis, understanding these barriers is essential for designing effective health interventions and policies that ensure equitable healthcare access for this vulnerable population. This scoping review aims to investigate the barriers and the existing health policies that complicate healthcare access for migrants in transit. **Materials and Methods:** This review scoped 26 papers written in English between 2011 and June 2024, including grey literature, using the Arksey and O'Malley framework and the PRISMA-ScR checklist. The databases searched included Medline, Migration Research Hub, Science Direct, Biomed Central, OECD, and third-sector websites. **Results:** Sixteen peer-reviewed articles and 11 grey literature reports were included in this review. Several key barriers to healthcare access were identified, including communication, financial and administrative barriers. Healthcare systems are often underfunded and unprepared to address the specific needs of transit migrants. Voluntary non-governmental and civil society organizations were found to be significant facilitators in accessing healthcare. Only a few studies identified policy gaps restricting healthcare access. **Conclusion:** Addressing these barriers requires coordinated efforts at both local and international levels, including policy reforms, improved healthcare infrastructure, and tailored interventions that consider the unique vulnerabilities of migrants in transit. Further research is needed to explore effective strategies to mitigate these challenges and ensure that migrants receive timely and appropriate healthcare during their journeys.